(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) No long term action plan as embodied in new Agriculture Policy for agricultural development is currently under the consideration of the Government.

Accidents at unmanned Rail Level Crossings

*159. SHRI ASHOK MITRA:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) the number of accidents at unmanned rail level crossings in the country during five years since 1991-92 and the number and nature of casualties caused by such accidents;

(b) the total number of unmanned level crossings and their State-wise break-up;

(c) the total estimated capital and maintenance costs to convert these unmanned crossings into manned crossings;

(d) whether any modern technique is being introduced to warn the vehicles crossing such unmanned gates; and

(e) the targets set for manning railway crossings during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The number of accidents of unmanned level crossings and casualties therein during the last five years is as under:

Year	No. of Accidents	Killed	Injured
1991-92	38	93	262
1992-93	35	72	78
1993-94	54	146	273
1994-95	54	147	115
1995-96	52	117	162

(b) State-wise break-up of unmanned level crossings is as under:

Year	No. of Accidents	Killed	Injured
Andhra Pradesh	1610	Mizoram	1
Assam	1045	Orissa	1137
Bihar	2062	Punjab	1056
Delhi	7	Rajasthan	2268
Gujarat	2948	Tamil Nadu	1572
Haryana	520	Tripura	37
Himachal Pradesh	293	Uttar Pradesh	3727
Jammu & Kashmir	36	West Bengal	1608
Karnataka	1059	Chandigarh	2
Kerala	231	Pondicherry	9
Madhya Pradesh	1810	Goa	2
Maharashtra	1650	Nagaland	1
Manipur	1		
Total : 24,692			

(c) The initial capital cost for manning all these unmanned crossings would be around Rs. 1500 crores. Besides, maintenance cost would be around Rs. 200 crores per annum.

(d) A train actuated radio-based warning system, designed and developed by M/s Bharat Electronics Ltd., is under trial at a few level crossings.

(e) it has been decided that no new unmanned level crossing will be added and the sensitive unmanned level crossings will be, on a planned basis, after due prioritisation, converted into manned level crossings with the help of the State Governments who have to invest the initial capital cost.

Eligibility Test for Lecturership

*160. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: (a) whether the University Grants Commission has accredited seven State Governments to conduct the eligibility test for the posts of lecturers in colleges of various universities, provided they observe certain conditions imposed on them;

(b) if so, what are the names of these seven States;

(c) whether the UGC had taken this decision after holding a series of meetings on the recommendations of the UGC Committee; and

(d) what are the other steps being taken by University Grants Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) The State level Eligibility Tests in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana,

Karnataka, Maharashtra & Goa, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal are accredited by UGC.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The standard of State level Eligibility Tests is monitored by UGC with the help of its Committee on Accreditation of Tests.

कृषि क्षेत्र हेतु विश्व बैंक की सहायता

583. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:**
श्री इकबाल सिंह:

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि: (क) क्या विश्व बैंक देश में कृषि क्षेत्र के विकास हेतु वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक राज्य, विशेषकर पंजाब को प्रदान की गई ऐसी सहायता का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इन राज्यों ने इस संबंध में प्राप्त की गई धनराशि का पूर्णत: उपयोग कर लिया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) प्रत्येक राज्य को उपलब्ध कराई गई इस प्रकार की सहायता का ब्यौरा अनुपत्र में दिया गया है [देखिये परिशिष्ट 178, अनुपत्र संख्या 20] गत तीन वर्षों में पंजाब को दी गई सहायता इस प्रकार है:–

(रुपए लाख में)

परियोजना का नाम	वर्ष 1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. समेकित पनधारा विकास परियोजना (पहाड़ी)	896.05	1288.37	1029.45
2. राष्ट्रीय कृषि अनुसंधान परियोजना-2	72.34	81.73	31.00
3. राष्ट्रीय कृषि विस्तार परियोजना-3	3268.40	2643.50	

(ग) जी, हां, चूंकि विश्व बैंक द्वारा राज्यों को दी जाने वाली सहायता प्रतिपूर्ति के रूप में दी जाती है।

(घ) भाग (ख) में दिए गए ब्यौरे के अनुसार ही।

(ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

Banning the Use of Polythene Bags

584. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Statesman' dated the 5th June, 1996, captioned "Slow poisoning via polythene bags";

(b) if so, whether the use of polythene bags is causing various types of diseases;

(c) whether the use of polythene in advanced countries has been banned and these countries are dumping their wastes in India; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ban the use of polythene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Polythene bags are not harmful to the environment per sec. Plastic bags or other plastic packaging should have food grade pigments, plasticizers and additives (other chemicals), these do not lead to any harmful effects.

(c) and (d) Based on available information, the use of polythene bags in advanced countries is not banned. As per the amended Export-Import Policy (1992—1997), the import of plastic waste is included in the restricted list and its import is permitted against a licence.

रेल लाइन का परिवर्तन

585. **श्री रामदेव भंडारी:** क्या रेल मंत्री 7 मार्च, 1996 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 115 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या दरभंगा-निरमली, दरभंगा-जयनगर, दरभंगा-नरकटियागंज और झंझारपुर-लोकहा मीटर लाइनों को बड़ी लाइनों में बदलने से संबंधित सर्वेक्षण कार्य पूरा हो गया है;

(ख) क्या भारत-नेपाल सीमा पर स्थित क्षेत्रों में महत्वपूर्ण रेल लाइनें बिछाने से संबंधित कार्य वित्तीय वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान आरंभ हो जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?